

Horace Billings House
Beardstown, Illinois

Casa Co.

HABS 26-28

HABS

ILL.

9-BEATO,

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Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District No. 26

Historic American Buildings Survey
Earl H. Reed, Jr. District Officer
Room 404, 520 N. Michigan Avenue.
Chicago, Illinois

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ILL-1
Q. BEATO
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HORACE BILLINGS HOUSE
CASS COUNTY
BEARDSTOWN, ILLINOIS

DISTRICT NO. 26
NORTHERN ILLINOIS

EARL H. REED, JR.
DISTRICT OFFICER

Project No. 26-28

By W.J. O'Connor

SOURCE

Mrs. Alice The earliest record obtainable of this
Yates property states that it was bought in 1851
Present for \$525.00 by John and Helena Nelsch.
Owner Whether or not the house was on the property
 at this time is impossible to determine.
Cass County However the same record shows quite definitely
Records that in 1845 the lot was but a parcel of a
 large tract of land and was not improved.
 From verbal testimony given by Mrs.
Yates the house is known to be about 80 years
old. This evidence would place the date of
erection of the house between 1846 and 1854.
The building has been considered and always
known as the Billings House and the records
show that the property was purchased on April
23, 1850 by Horace Billings.

This evidence leads us to believe that
Billings was the builder of the house. The
next owner of record is a Mr. Adolph Herman
Seilschott who purchased the property on
March 4, 1872.

It then passed thru numerous hands till
purchased by Alice Yates, the present owner
in 1909. No record of architect or builder
could be found. It is evident that the rear
wing of the building was added on at a later
date, but just when it was is impossible to
determine. The rear porch on the first floor
has been enclosed within the last ten years
and extensive alterations have been carried out
from time to time. All original fire-places
and chimneys have been removed as well as con-
siderable trim. At present the living room,
dining room, 1st floor bed room and bath
for two bed rooms on the second floor are the
only rooms used by the owner. All other rooms
have been neglected, unused, and in very bad
condition.

A railing and balusters existed on the first floor porch similar to that on the second floor, but ^{they} have been removed. Various door and windows have been torn out or installed until the present house varies considerably from what must have been the original.

By William J. O'Connor
Approved Paul J. Neely
District Officer

March 30, 1934

Reviewed 1936 by H.C.F.